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NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1942

by

O.H. BLACKLAY, M.D., F.R.C.S.Edin.

Medical Officer of Health


To Which is Appended the Report of

JOHN S. TOWNLEY

Sanitary Inspector &

Cleansing Superintendent

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# NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres), 100,823.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to the rate books, 7 644.

Rateable Value (1st April, 1942) £124,117.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £510.

## Sanitary Staff

Medical Officer of Health (part time) O.H. BLACKLAY, M.D.,  
F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Senior Sanitary Inspector (full time), John S. Townley.

Sanitary Engineer and Surveyor (full time), H. Crabtree.

## Social Conditions

The social conditions remain unaltered. The residents of the district surrounding Crewe and Nantwich are employed in these towns and in the remaining part, the population find employment in agriculture, which is the chief industry of the District. Allied industries, in the form of milk factories and a whey products factory, are situated in the area. There is one clothing factory in the District which employs female labour. Unemployment has disappeared.

## Vital Statistics

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate	438	222	216
(Illegitimate	16	6	10

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16.89

Still Births	28	14	4
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Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 17.93

Deaths	276	159	117
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Death rate per 1,000 of the resident population 10.27

Deaths from Puerperal causes:- Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	48.46
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	43.37
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	187.5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or requires comment - Nil.

## Deaths

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 22 (males and females)

There have been no cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year. The conditions of occupation and environments of the population are healthy.



### Immunisation against Diphtheria

This Council started its drive for the immunisation of all children of school age and under in May, 1938, when a scheme for free immunisation was arranged, parents being advised to take their children to their own medical practitioner. This Scheme resulted in 1,141 children being immunised.

Again in January, 1941, a further drive was made, and on this occasion the treatment was given at Elementary Schools; valuable assistance being given by all Head Teachers. As the result of a personal letter being sent to parents, publicity in the press and elsewhere, 274 children under school age were immunised, and an additional 1,454 of school age. Taking into account the 1938 Scheme it was estimated that 90% of the children of school age had benefited by the Scheme.

By the end of June, 1942, the figures shewed that 15% of children under five, and 95% between five and fifteen years, had been immunised.

During the month of October, 1942, returns from the Elementary Schools in the Rural District showed that at that time 85% were immunised. Teachers concerned then obtained consent forms from the parents for the remaining 15%. Arrangements were immediately made for them to be treated at school, and at the same time posters were displayed throughout the District stating the time and date when a doctor would be in attendance at the school to carry out the immunisation and inviting parents of children under school age to present their children for treatment also.

On completion of the Scheme, commenced during the latter months of 1942, it is anticipated that every child attending school in this District will be immunised against Diphtheria. Whilst no definite figures were available, it was estimated that 32% of children under five years of age residing in the area have been immunised, and returns since received shew every sign of an improvement in this figure.

The arrangement whereby children can be immunised by their own doctor at the expense of the Council still operates. The Council supplies A.P.T. and pays the doctor 5/- per head.

The results of the Council's Free Immunisation Scheme as set out above show that considerable success has been achieved.

### Laboratory Facilities

There have been no developments or changes owing to the war, and the existing arrangements are set out hereunder:-

Bacteriological specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Manchester and the Evans Biological Institute.

Samples of milk are examined at the Chester Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

Water samples are submitted to Messrs. Melling & Ardern, the County Analysts, Manchester.

### Ambulance Facilities

There is a motor ambulance at the Isolation Hospital for transport of infectious diseases and another kept at Nantwich for the transport of non-infectious and accident cases. There is also an ambulance stationed at Haslington controlled by the British Red Cross.



The above ambulances are maintained by (1) the Nantwich Joint Hospital Board, of which the Rural District is a constituent authority; (2) by the Nantwich Urban and Rural District Councils jointly under agreement; (3) British Red Cross.

In addition to the above, six ambulances supplied by the County Council under the Air Raid Precautions Scheme are stationed within the area, and one mobile unit.

In my opinion the service is adequate.

#### Nursing Arrangements

Professional nursing in the homes of the people in the District is by District Nurses, employed by voluntary associations.

Nurses are stationed at Acton, Audlem, Bunbury, Doddington, Cholmondeley, Willaston, Worleston, Newhall, Stapeley and Shavington. These nurses act as midwives in their respective districts.

No special provision is made for the nursing of infectious cases in their own homes. Nurses are employed by the County Council and are located in the Rural District; they exercise the duties of school nurses and Health Visitors to cases of tuberculosis.

#### Clinics and Treatment Centres

The only existing centre of this type in the District is the Child Welfare Centre at Haslington. The Child Welfare Centres of Nantwich and Alsager are used by the residents in the vicinity of these places.

#### Hospitals

There is a large Poor Law Hospital at Nantwich, which serves the Rural and Urban Districts of Nantwich and the Borough of Crewe, to which a temporary extension has been made providing accommodation for 240 beds, for use in the event of an emergency.

There is the Isolation Hospital at Worleston. This Hospital is capable of accommodating twenty adults and thirty children, and of treating three diseases at the same time.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Nantwich with accommodation for eighteen patients.

In addition to these institutions there exists at Wrenbury Hall, near Nantwich, an agricultural and industrial Colony for residential treatment of Tuberculosis cases capable of some work. This Institution was presented to the County Council shortly after the last war by the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association.

#### Water Extensions carried out during 1942

Extensions have been made to improve supplies in the Crewe Green and Haslington Districts, involving the laying of some 10,500 yards of 8 ins. and 6 ins. diameter mains, together with a necessary Boosting station.

Owing to serious reports being received of shortage of water at the Bache House and Fields Farm, Hurleston, the Council have re-laid the main from Clatterdishes Farm for a distance of 1,885 yards, and as a result great improvement in the supply has been noted.



Since the War Agricultural Executive Committee have called upon farmers to plough up larger areas of land, there have been a considerable number of applications for water supplies to be laid on to fields for cattle drinking purposes. These supplies have been given, but to restrict the use of materials to the minimum, the number of supplies have been limited.

To meet the demands of the National Fire Service a large number of the "Ball Hydrants" have been substituted by a modern type of "valve hydrant" and the work of making this change over will proceed as opportunity permits.

#### Water Extensions Proposed for 1943

As the Pumping Plant at Bearstone has been in commission for approximately ten years, it was thought necessary for the Pumps to be withdrawn and overhauled. The Council taking advantage of the opportunity have decided to lower the pumps to a depth of 350 feet in order to obtain a maximum supply from the existing Boreholes. This work will be commenced immediately the new year begins and will take approximately three months to complete.

To augment the supplies from the Bearstone Plant, the Council have accepted Tenders for the sinking of a further 30 ins. dia., Borehole on an adjacent site to the existing works. Work will be commenced forthwith, and it is hoped to complete within the year. Should the results of the test of this Borehole prove satisfactory, application will be made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to increase the pumping and storage capacity of the Bearstone Scheme in order to make full use of the added supply.

The high standard of the water supplied from Bearstone has been maintained throughout the year, but owing to increased demands, it has not been possible at all times to operate the softening plant, and it is regretted that for periods the water has been delivered in a "hard" condition. The softening operation will be re-commenced and continued immediately after the pumps have been lowered to their new position, and it is anticipated that no further trouble will occur.

#### Sewage and Drainage

Most of the work carried out under this heading during the past year has been in connection with the repair and maintenance of sewers which have, since the advent of the Public Health Act, 1936, come under the jurisdiction of the Local Authority. It is anticipated that a considerable amount of work will be necessary as time goes on, to bring these schemes into a reliable state of efficiency. Schemes for the sewerage of the Far Heath district of Winterley in the Parish of Haslington, and for the reconstruction of the percolating filters at the Haslington Disposal Works, have been presented to the Ministry of Health, and it is expected that sanction will be received at an early date.

Several improvements have been made to the drainage systems of Council Houses in different parts of the district, and it is the policy of the Council to continue to improve these schemes when the opportunity presents itself.

#### Housing

There have been no houses built in the District during the year, and owing to the restriction on the amount of money which can be expended on building work, very few alterations or extensions to existing property have been carried out.

During the twelve months under review no extensive repairs have been carried out at houses in the Rural District, the Council having only taken action in cases where urgent repair was necessary to abate nuisances. Difficulty in getting work done has increased owing to the shortage of labour and materials.



### Rivers and Streams Pollution

No action in this connection has been necessary during the year.

### Closet Accommodation

There have been no voluntary conversions from conservancy system to water carriage. There are 1,170 pail closets in the populous and closely built-up areas.

### Public Cleansing

On the 31st December, 1942, scavenging was carried out by direct labour and horse-drawn vehicles in the following Parishes:- Willaston, Wistaston, Wybunbury, Rope, Shavington, Stapleley, Hough, Weston, Haslington, Basford and Chorlton.

The parishes of Audlem, Crewe Green, Stoke, Wardle and Worleston were scavenged by contract.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The report of the Inspector, which deals fully with this matter, is attached hereto.

### Shops and Offices

Periodical inspections have been made and no infringements found.

### Camping Sites

Licences were issued in two instances under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of one caravan in each case.

### Swimming Baths

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs

(1) Number of houses found to be infested:-

- (a) Council Houses: Nil.
  - (b) Other Houses: Three
- Number of houses disinfested: Three.

(2) Method employed when cases do arise is the use of an insecticide known as "Zaldecide".

(3) Method employed to ensure belongings of tenants free from vermin before removal to Council Houses: Nil.

(4) Disinfestation is carried out by Local Authority as required.

(5) No measures were taken to educate tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleaning.

### Schools

All schools in the area have a wholesome and adequate supply of water, and the general sanitary conditions are good.

Schemes for the provision of milk daily to schoolchildren operate at 32 schools, and cooked meals are provided daily at 24 schools.

There were three schools closed as follows on account of epidemics during the year:

Worleston C E. School for Chicken Pox,  
10th - 24th August, 1942.

Spurstow Council School for Measles.  
20th September - 4th October, 1942.

Acton C.E. School (Infants only) for Measles.  
23rd September - 4th October, 1942.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are about 705 farms licenced under the Accredited Milk Scheme, and 18 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk, of which 10 are also attested.

Frequent inspections are made of two pasteurisation plants in the District and samples are taken regularly and submitted for examination.

Particulars of meat inspected will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector attached hereto.

### Nutrition

No steps have been taken to increase knowledge on the above subject by this authority.

### Shell-fish

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the District.

### Infectious Disease

There were 87 cases of Scarlet Fever against 29 last year, Diphtheria cases numbered 32, showing an increase of 19 on last year.

26 sputum specimens were examined for the presence of Tubercle Baccilli and 11 reported as positive.

24 cases of Tuberculosis were notified: 17 were "pulmonary" cases, and 7 "non-pulmonary" cases.

The efficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in the area is satisfactory and no proceedings have been necessary for neglect to notify this disease.

### Tuberculosis

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
35	4	3	1	-	1	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Upwards	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Total Cases: 24

Total Deaths: 3.



# Prevention of Blindness

No action has been taken by this authority.

## Notifiable Disease

The following is a tabular statement of the cases of notifiable diseases which were reported during the year:-

	Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	87	71	-
Diphtheria	32	31	5
Pneumonia	8	-	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	61	-	1
Measles	104	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-

## Cases of Infectious Disease Showing the Incidence of Cases in Various Age Periods

	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 & Over	All Ages.
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	7	7	48	12	3	5	3	3	1	87
Diphtheria	-	1	1	-	1	15	3	1	6	1	3	-	32
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	1	2	8
Puerp. Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Measles	2	7	10	5	14	53	8	-	5	-	-	-	104
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Whooping Cough	4	3	7	3	7	31	2	2	2	-	-	-	61
C.S. Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	7	12	19	15	30	147	26	6	24	6	5	2	299

## Remarks

The closing of the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse as from the 25th December, 1942, will relieve the Sanitary Inspector of having to attend for Meat Inspection duties daily, and this will allow more time to be allocated to the supervision of milk supplies.

OLIVER H. BLACKLAY, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Medical Officer of Health.

Nantwich.

June, 1943.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council,  
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eighth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1942.

### Inspections

Public Health Act, 1936.	240
Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.	88
Infectious Disease	213
Factories Act, 1937.	13
Food & Drugs Act, 1938.	298
Housing Act, 1936.	<u>16</u>
	<u>868</u>

### Infectious Disease

The following cases of infectious diseases have been investigated:-

Scarlet Fever	87
Diphtheria	32

Disinfection was carried out in each case, and investigation entailed 213 visits.

### Refuse Accommodation

In parishes where scavenging is in operation ashbins are provided at all premises. The difficulty experienced in obtaining replacements still continues.

### Scavenging

Eleven parishes are scavenged by direct labour with horse-drawn vehicles, and five by contract.

The approximate number of ashbins and closet pails emptied are as follows:-

Ashbins (fortnightly)	3,502
Closet Pails (weekly)	1,456.

### Offensive Trades

Only one offensive trade exists in this area - a tripe boiling establishment. Frequent visits are paid and the place is kept in a satisfactory condition.

### Shops

The shops in the area were frequently inspected and no infringements of the Act were found

### Canal Boats

No applications were received for registration of any canal boats. Several visits have been made to the canal, and two boats were inspected, and all was found to be in order.

### Housing

Owing to war conditions and consequent shortage of labour and materials, reconstruction, improvement of houses and extensive repair has been brought to a standstill.



In the event of cases arising, action has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, and has been limited to works necessary to obviate the nuisance. 44 Preliminary Notices and 19 Abatement Notices were served.

### Milk Supply

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

16 samples of pasteurised milk produced in the area were taken with satisfactory results.

Generally speaking the structural condition of the shippens in the area is good and the present position cannot be assessed on the number of Accredited Licences issued.

The chief reasons why more farmers in this District do not hold the Accredited Licence are firstly, labour problems, and secondly, inability to reach the high standard of dairy accommodation and sterilising facilities required by the County Council. In all cases of reconstruction and alteration to cow sheds, the standards laid down for Accredited milk production by the County Council have been adopted by this Council as being necessary to meet the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order.

Certain difficulties are being experienced in cases where, as a war-time measure, small-holders have changed from rearing young stock to milk production on premises which have never previously been registered for the purpose, and which in many cases do not meet the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and in such cases the high standards which have evolved during the past few years have had to be considerably reduced to bare minimum requirements, in view of present circumstances.

At the end of the year there were 1,365 farms on the register. Of which 705 are "Accredited" producers.

### Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-38.

The number of licences granted or renewed under the above Order are as follows:-

"Pasteurised"	2
"Tuberculin Tested" (Bottler's Licence)	2
"Tuberculin Tested" (Supplementary)	1
"Accredited" (Bottler's Licence)	1

Premises licenced were regularly inspected and found to comply in all respects with the requirements of the Order.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

During the year 1942 the Ministry of Food continued to operate at the slaughterhouse situated in this Rural District from which meat was allocated for consumption in the Nantwich Rural and Urban Districts.

Regular daily inspection at these premises has resulted in the following animals being examined:-

Cattle	1,862
Sheep	3,038
Calves	750
Pigs	302

The total weight of meat condemned was 83 tons 14 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs., and whilst this figure is high, it can be explained by the fact that the slaughterhouse concerned is situated in an agricultural district and in consequence the percentage of casualty slaughtering is very high.

Inspections of Warehouses and Shops are made as requested, and the following articles were condemned:-

124	x	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	oz.	tins condensed milk.
75			lbs.	prunes.
25			lbs.	bacon.
1 $\frac{1}{2}$			lbs.	Irish Stew.
12			lbs.	chopped ham.
28 $\frac{1}{2}$			lbs.	peaches.
18			lbs.	tinned apples.
9			oz.	tomatoes.
1			lb.	baked beans and pork.
30			oz.	pilchards.
13			lbs.	mixed vegetables
594			lbs.	corned beef.
3			lbs.	baked beans.
16			lbs.	red plums.
6			lbs.	tongue.
1			lb.	pincapple cubes.
4			lbs.	butter.
6			lbs.	pork sausage.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$			lbs.	apricots.
170 $\frac{1}{2}$			lbs.	luncheon pork.

#### Legal Proceedings

Action was taken in respect of a contravention of Section 20 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for failure to comply with Articles 6 and 7 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, the defendant being fined £2-0-0. and costs.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN S. TOWNLEY

Sanitary Inspector.

Nantwich,  
June, 1943.





